

Application No.: 10/074874

Case No.: 57202US002

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 4 with the word "While" and ends on line 11 with the word "polarizers" with the following amended paragraph:

While K-type polarizers can be made by conventional acid processes, these processes necessarily involving the handling of, and potential exposure to, hazardous quantities of acid, usually hydrochloric acid. Additionally, the vapor-phase acid processes can result in non-uniform catalytic dehydration, which can lead to streaking or mottling of the polarizer, rendering it unsuitable for many precision optical applications. See, for example U.S. ~~5,973,834~~ ~~5,773,834~~ (Kadaba et al.). Hence, there is a need for a process for preparing K-type polarizers that does not use large quantities of hazardous and corrosive acids (such as HCl vapors) to effect dehydration and can produce high quality, uniform polarizers.